

## **DISTRIBUTED EXTERIOR GATEWAY PROTOCOL**

### **ABSTRACT**

A border gateway has a control card and at least one line card. The control card has a  
5 control processor to execute a control portion of an exterior gateway protocol and a  
routing table of exterior gateway routes and devices. The line card has a line processor to  
execute an offload portion of an exterior gateway protocol and a communications port to  
allow termination of at least one communication link. A backplane allows the control  
card and the line card to communicate.

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